

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, November 26. 1709.

IN all your Disputes at home between *High Church* and *Low Church*, *Old Whig* and *New Whig*, and the like, I have hitherto had no hand; I seek no Concern in your Broils, other than to reconcile them, nor any Share in your Breaches, other than to pity them, and regret the Folly of them. I am for defending Constitution-Right in every Branch of it, and I care not who is uppermost or undermost among you, so that this be but preserv'd.

If I have appear'd vigorously against *Tackers*, *High-Flyers*, and mad Mountebank Statesmen, that dance all upon the High-Rope, and are ever pushing Things to Extremes, it is because they fly in the Face of the Revolution, on which our Constitu-

tion is more immediately founded.—If I have expos'd the scandalous abominable Practices of SOME of the Clergy, and O how few have I touch'd, compar'd to the vast Crowd of *Satan's* Emissaries that are among them, it has been because, and only because they fly in the Face of the Christian Religion it self, on which our Ecclesiastick Constitutions, if right, are all founded.—If I have oppos'd a Spirit of of Imposition and Innovation in *Scotland*, clouded with Pretences of Conscience and Christian Liberty, it is because, and only because they evidently push at the Overthrowing the Union—on which our whole Constitution is now founded.

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These three Heads will take in all the Subjects I meddle with—And with your Subdivisions, I resolve to have no Concern in them, if possible to be avoided.

We have indeed a new Scheme of farther Division laid among us by a subtle Party, whose Malice against the publick Peace is evident; and I cannot but make some small Attempt to expose it—And let it touch where it will, I hope, it may carry some Conviction with it—And this is to make an irreconcilable Breach among the *Whigs* as they call them, upon a new Notion of *Old Whig* and *New Whig*—Nor let the Author of a modern Scribble, who attempts to make this his Subject, think by this, I mean what he has said on that Head— which though 'tis subtle and insinuating enough, yet is not considerable enough, nor of Antiquity enough, to lay Claim to the Original of this Thing— I shall therefore state the Case, and then in a few Words detect the Design of it. The Case is as follows.

In the second Year of the present Queen, (*for tho' there was something of this stirring before, yet I shall trace it back no farther*) when *High-Flying* Principles had run Things, according to their usual Precipitation, up to Extremity—When her Majesty was brought to the Brink of signing her own Destruction in an Occasional Bill; when a Treaty of Union having been broken off, and tacking the Toleration had laid open our Liberties, and a Popish Succession seem'd the more immediate Prospect; when by the blessed Project of this uncircumcis'd Party, her Majesty was to own Her self an Usurper, and to enjoy the Crown for Life, by the Concession of her Brother, *as they call'd him*— Which Life was all we had for our Happiness, and the Party had no more to do, but to make the Lease as short as they could— At this Time of Extremity, the Precipitation of the Party, *as generally all such rash mad Measures do*, ruin'd the Cause they espous'd— And the Gulph, in which they would have overturn'd this Nation, appearing, her Majesty and the whole Kingdom took a just Alarm at the horrid Attempt— And as the Giants in the Fable assaulting *Jupiter's* Throne, were overwhelm'd by his Thunder, or as *Satan*

and his Host, in *Milton's* Paradise, were thrown down from their invading the Majesty of Heaven, even so, in their Degree, they were immediately blasted by the wise, resolute, but moderate Resentment of the Queen, and those Loyal and Faithful Lovers of Liberty, that assisted her Majesty in the Discovery of this wicked Design.

Immediately *Tacking*, *High-Flying*, and all Manner of *Jacobite* Precipitations were cast out, and became odious to the whole Nation; Her Majesty purg'd her Household and her Councils of all the Sons of Fury, and remov'd them from her Person, and most effectually from the Administration— and the whole Nation joyn'd in purging the Representative— in which, a new Election happening just at that time, very few of the *Tackers*, comparatively speaking, were elected— All this, I presume, is Matter of Fact, and I dare say, no Body will contradict it.

It comes next in order to examine, who was instrumental in this blessed State-Revolution, and by what Hands it was brought to pass— And without entering into Names or Persons— I put it thus. The moderate Men, both of the Church of England and *Dissenters*, Men of Temper, Men of Liberty, whose Principle being honest, their Heads are clear, and their Eyes open to the Interest of their Sovereign, finding Tyranny and universal Bondage breaking in at this Gap, immediately apply themselves to the Work— It was no hard Matter to let the World see, that in the great Article of Liberty, *English men* could have but one Interest. The Question was not at all *Church* or *Dissenter*, but *Liberty* and *Tyranny*— Temper on both sides qualify'd them with mutual Charity for each other— In Matters Religious, and in Politick Interests, it was clear, the moderate *Church-men* and moderate *Dissenters* had but one Interest— nor have they any other yet— These were the Men form'd the Revolution I am speaking of, that joyn'd to overthrow *High-Flying*, Precipitate, and *Jacobite* Measures— and they have effectually done it; they pull'd it down, they keep it down, and they will keep it down, in Spight of all the Attempts of the Party to restore it.

It comes next in my Way to let you see, what Steps are taken to dissolve this Confederacy, and how, in order to restore *High-Flying, &c.* these foolish Distinctions of *Old Whigs* and *New Whigs*, antient and modern, &c. are started in the World—It must be for a Lamentation, that these Distinctions have prevail'd so far, and that some are so warm upon the Division, that they cannot see the Hand that divides it—But their Power is short; *Old Whig* and *Modern Whig*, unless *G O D* should once more insatuate us, will upon all Occasions joyn against *Tackers* and *High-Fliers*—

Now they attempt to cajole the *Old Whigs* into a League with the *High-Fliers*—and would persuade the World, that there are some Men among the Whigs *so mad*, as that they would rather restore the destructive Principle of *Jacobitism* and *High-Church*, than joyn with that hateful Thing they call a *Modern Whig*, to maintain Liberty, Union, and the Revolution.

These are the Practices I shall now attempt to detect— I know not where the Folly will lie, but let it lie where it will, I shall endeavour to prove it a Folly— And I leave the rest to Providence.

MISCELLANEA.

AND why must the Suppressing the Exorbitances of the Press be brought into these Party-Feuds, Gentlemen? You that rail so loud at the Liberty of the Press, and are yet crowding the Streets with new Papers, as if you meant to prompt the Reformation by encreasing the Crime; Pray, how does it appear, that the *Whigs* or *Dissenters*, or who you please, are against regulating the Press? Let us therefore tell you, that this seems a Scandal even upon the *Church men* only, and the Consequence will testify the Truth, as in all honest Cases is very plain.

How the first Complaint against the Exorbitance of the Press, happens to be made by the very People that are alone, or by far most guilty, I know not, unless it be, that they see it must happen, and they would seem to be the Regulators— But, Gentlemen, remember by the Way, that the Author of this Paper, both by his constant Endeavour, as well as by several Tracts publish'd on Purpose, has always prompted the just Re-straints of the Press— As to Method and Manner, we shall speak of that by it self— And indeed I doubt we shall differ there— For they know, the Drift of a Licenser of the Press will not go down with a Nation of Liberty— And as all Sorts of Tyranny are depos'd by Law, so a Liberty of complaining of just Grievances will for ever be preserv'd in Eng-

land, tho' it be by Print; but I undertake to propose several Steps which may be effectual, both to restrain a licentious Liberty of the Press, and to secure to the Authors of Books their Right of Property.

Now the Gentlemen, who complain of the Liberty of the Press, have promis'd us a List of Socinian, Heretical, Deistic, and Erroneous Books—which, they say, swarm in this Age— And indeed they say true, they do swarm in this Age, and their Contagion spreads like a Plague; and I heartily joyn with them, in moving for a just Regulation—and shall in my next propose some Methods for the speedy putting a Stop to the Mischief. But pray, Gentlemen, why may we not peaceably joyn in so good a Work? Why must you concern our Parties in this Quarrel? All honest Men of any Party will joyn in just legal Methods for restraining the Exorbitance we speak of— Let us then not concern our Party Divisions in it; I hope, you will not pretend to that— These *Deists*, *Socinians*, *Fliers-to-Heaven*, *Second-thought-Men*, *Spiritual Mechanifmers*, and erroneous Authors are *Dissenters*— If so, pray, Gentlemen, when you give the World your List, let them know, how many of the Authors are *Church-men*, and how many *Dissenters*; and I am not at all afraid to tell you, it will soon appear, the *Dissenters* have no Need to fear the Examination.

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